



Janet Napolitano  
Governor

# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Stephen A. Owens  
Director

May 7, 2003

## To Interested Parties:

As you may be aware, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) recently announced the start of a new pilot project intended to reduce public exposure to toxic substances in the community of South Phoenix. I am writing to ask for your help by serving on a newly created Community Action Council (CAC) whose purpose will be to develop a community-driven multi-media toxic reduction plan for South Phoenix.

In recognition of long-standing community concerns about toxics in South Phoenix, ADEQ is funding the project from a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX. The CAC will bring together community representatives, environmental experts, and other officials, in an open and collaborative process to:

- Identify the most problematic toxics releases in South Phoenix
- Define the boundaries of the pilot study area
- Develop strategies to reduce toxics and emissions to the air, water and soil
- Implement these strategies within the agreed-upon boundaries
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the chosen strategies in reducing toxics and emissions

Community participation in this project is critical. As a volunteer member, the most important qualities you will need are a commitment to the well-being of the community and a willingness to tackle tough and contentious issues in a fair and thoughtful manner.

We hope to hold the first meeting some time in early June. If you are willing to participate as a member of the CAC, please contact Ward Jacox at (602) 771-4424 or by e-mail at [Jacox.Ward@ev.state.az.us](mailto:Jacox.Ward@ev.state.az.us) by Wednesday, May 21, 2003.

We look forward to working with you and, through this process, becoming better partners with the South Phoenix community.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Owens  
Director

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